

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01
HEW-04 AID-05 /061 W
-----079924 261217Z /53

R 261007Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO DEA HQS WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC 3743

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 6617

DEA HQS FOR FOX/IG AND COOK/ENOM FROM ASAIC DEDICH

SECSTATE FOR S/NM

POSTS FOR DEA

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, IR
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF DRUG AVAILABILITY SITUATION IN
AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN IRAN - GFAL-76-8006

REF: DEA 21176

1. THE STATEMENT THAT DRUGS ARE AVAILABLE AND CHEAP IN
IRAN IS GENERALLY ACCURATE. IT SHOULD NOT BE CONCLUDED,
HOWEVER, THAT THIS HAS FOSTERED WIDESPREAD DRUG ABUSE IN
TEN AMERICAN COMMUNITY. ON THE BASIS OF KNOWN DRUG ABUSE
CASES, INTERVIEWS WITH TEHRAN AMERICAN SCHOOL (TAS)
COUNSELORS, REVIEW OF RELEVANT ARMISH-MAAG HOSPITAL
RECORDS AND OBSERVABLE BEHAVIOR PATTERNS, IT IS BELIEVED
THAT A RELATIVELY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE AMERICAN
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COMMUNITY IS INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE IN ANY SERIOUS WAY.
CERTAINLY THE OVERALL IMPRESSION IS THAT IT IS NO
DIFFERENT AND PERHAPS EVEN LESS OF A PROBLEM THAT THAT
CHARACTERISTIC OF A COMMUNITY OF SIMILAR SIZE AND
COMPOSITION IN THE UNITED STATES. DRUGS MOST COMMONLY
INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE CASES IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY
ARE DEPRESSANTS AND TRANQUILIZERS SUCH AS METHAQUALONE,

VALIUM, LIBRIUM, ETC. IRANIAN LAW PROVIDES FOR CONTROLS UNDER WHICH THESE DRUGS ARE IMPORTED OR MANUFACTURED, LICENSED AND DISPENSED. INDIVIDUALS CAN LEGALLY OBTAIN THEM ONLY ON A VALID PRESCRIPTION FROM A QUALIFIED PHYSICIAN. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, THESE CONTROLS HAVE NOT BEEN EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED AND REGULATED DRUGS CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY FROM LOCAL PHARMACIES OR ON THE OPEN MARKET. THE ILLEGAL USE OF DRUGS IN THIS CATEGORY ARE CONFINED MOSTLY TO FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN IRAN. THE ONE MOST POPULAR AMONG DRUG ABUSERS AT THE TAS IS METHAQUALONE, A NONBARBITURATE SEDATIVE SOLD IN HYDROCHLORIDE FORM AS MELCEDIN. IT IS APPARENTLY READILY AVAILABLE AND RELATIVELY CHEAP AT ABOUT 70 CENTS FOR TEN DOSAGE UNITS. HASHISH, ON EITHER AN EXPERIMENTAL OR REGULAR USE BASIS, CONTINUES TO BE THE OTHER MOST POPULAR DRUG AMONG DRUG USERS AT THE TAS. IT IS NOT POPULAR OR

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01
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WIDELY USED BY IRANIANS AND IS ILLEGAL AS IS MARIHUANA. IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, EASILY AVAILABLE AND CHEAP; FIVE GRAMS OF HASHISH RETAILS FOR \$3 TO \$5; 1 KILO IS ABOUT \$150 TO \$250.

2. THE USE OF OPIUM AND HEROIN IS CONFINED MAINLY TO IRANIANS, ALTHOUGH IT IS RATHER READILY AVAILABLE IN THE ILLICIT MARKET. OVER A YEAR AGO THERE WAS SOME INDICATION OF ITS USE BY A FEW TAS STUDENTS WHICH CAME TO LIGHT THROUGH THE ARREST OF AN AMERICAN DEPENDENT

FOR POSSESSION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. SHORTLY THEREAFTER
20 TAS STUDENTS LEFT IRAN APPARENTLY OVER CONCERN THAT
THEY MAY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HEROIN USERS AND WERE
IN DANGER OF ARREST. (THIS INCIDENT WAS INCLUDED IN
TEHRAN'S DO MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR JUNE 1976.)
DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS THERE IS NO RECORD OF OPIATE
USE OR OVERDOSE AMONG THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND EXISTING
EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTS THAT DRUG ABUSE
GENERALLY IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS DECLINED
APPRECIABLY OVER A YEAR AGO. DRUG ABUSE CASES THAT HAVE
COME TO THE ATTENTION OF DEA, THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF
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SECURITY INVESTIGATION, THE U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL AND THE
NEWLY ESTABLISHED AMERICAN COMMUNITY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
CENTER INVOLVE ONLY HASHISH OR DEPRESSANTS. FIVE CASES
OF DEPRESSANT OVERDOSE WERE TREATED AT THE U.S. ARMY
HOSPITAL IN THE JANUARY-JULY 1977 PERIOD.

3. COMMENT: THE GOI SHARES OUR INTEREST IN THE
SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND DRUG ABUSE.
LIKE THE UNITED STATES, IT IS A VICTIM COUNTRY. IT HAS
DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO REDUCE
ITS OPIUM USER POPULATION (ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 165,000
LEGALLY REGISTERED ADDICTS AND APPROXIMATELY 400,000
ILLEGAL ADDICTS) THROUGH TIGHTER CONTROLS ON REGISTRATION
AND DISPENSATION OF OPIUM THROUGH OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED
OUTLETS. IT HAS ALSO INTENSIFIED ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT
EFFORTS TO CURB ILLICIT TRAFFIC INTERNALLY AND THROUGH
IRAN. ADDITIONALLY IT HAS LAUNCHED A WIDESPREAD ANTI-
NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN THROUGH THE PUBLIC MEDIA WARNING
AGAINST THE DANGERS AND PENALTIES OF ILLEGAL USE AND
TRAFFICKING. THESE MEASURES NOTWITHSTANDING, HOWEVER,
RESOLUTION OF DRUG PROBLEMS WILL REQUIRE LONG-TERM,
SUSTAINED EFFORTS IN CHANGING SOCIAL ATTITUDES,
INCREASING ENFORCEMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND ELIMINATING
OUTSIDE SOURCES OF SUPPLY SUCH AS PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN.
UNTIL THESE LONG-TERM EFFORTS TAKE HOLD, THE BEST THAT
CAN BE REASONABLY HOPED FOR IS A DIMINUTION RATHER
THAN AN ELIMINATION OF THE PROBLEM. IN THIS CONNECTION
DEA HEADQUARTERS IS REMINDED OF THE GOI'S REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE IN
SETTING UP COMPLIANCE/REGULATORY CONTROLS. DECONTROL
UPON RECEIPT BY DEA.
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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